

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUMTER COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES,  
SECTIONS 6-19, 6-20 AND 6-23 of CHAPTER 6, ARTICLE II, RELATING TO DOGS AND  
OTHER ANIMALS

WHEREAS, Sumter County Council has previously enacted ordinances concerning dogs and other animals; and

WHEREAS, those ordinances, as compiled, are promulgated, in pertinent part, in the Code of Ordinances for Sumter County, South Carolina in Chapter 6, Article II, Sections 6-19 through 6-27; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, AT ITS REGULAR MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED AND BY THE AUTHORITY THEREOF:

That Sumter County hereby amends its Code of Ordinances Sections 6-19, 6-20 and 6-23, of Chapter 6, Article II, so that those sections shall read as follows:

1. The following definitions shall be added to Section 6-19. Definitions

*Tethering* means attaching an animal to a stationary object by means of a chain, cable, rope, running line, harness or similar devise. It shall not include the use of an appropriate leash to walk a dog. It shall not include appropriate leashes attached to trolley lines.

*Trolley line* means a run line at least ten feet in length between two pulley stop points suspended at least three feet above the dog's head which allows five feet lateral movement for the dog on each side of the primary trolley line as measured on the ground. The secondary line attached to the dog shall have a rolling trolley freely moveable a distance of at least ten feet along the primary line with a spring/shock absorber attachment and swivels at both ends. A trolley line must allow the dog free access to food, water and shelter and may restrain only one dog at a time. All collars used must be made of nylon, leather or other durable and non-metallic material and must be fitted so as not to cause injury to the dog or embed itself in the dog's neck.

2. New subsection (f) shall be added to Section 6-20. Certain actions unlawful, which new subsection (f) provides:

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person to tether, fasten, chain, tie, restrain or otherwise cause an unattended dog to be fastened, chained, tied or restrained without limitation to houses, trees, garages or other stationary or immobile objects by means of a chain, cable rope, running line, harness or other physical restraint for the purpose of confinement except in circumstance in which all of the following requirement are met:

(1) The tether must be attached to a properly fitting harness or collar and not directly to the dog's neck. All collars used must be made of nylon, leather or other durable and non-metallic material and must be fitted so as not to cause injury to the dog or embed itself in the dog's neck. The tether must be at least 15 feet in length and positioned so that, at its greatest length, it prevents injury, strangulation or entanglement with any obstruction, man-made or natural, or another animal and shall employ a swivel on at least one end of the tether to minimize tangling.

(2) If the tether is a chain it shall not be heavier than #2 gauge chain.

(3) A tethered dog must have access to adequate shade, shelter, food and water.

(4) A tethered dog may not be left unattended during extreme weather conditions including, but not limited to, extreme heat or near-freezing temperatures, hurricanes, thunderstorms or floods.

(5) A tethered dog must be at least 15 feet from the edge of any public road or sidewalk and not in an area open to teasing or attacks, or where the ground is continuously wet or muddy. A tethered dog must be tethered in a manner that will prevent the dog from leaving the owner's property.

(6) A tethered dog must be six months of age or older.

(7) A tethered dog must not be sick or injured.

(8) If there are multiple tethered dogs on one parcel of land, each dog must be tethered separately with sufficient space placed between the dogs to ensure that there is no contact with another tethered animal.

Exemptions: It is not unlawful for dogs in training for hunting or working to be tethered when supervised by the owner or a person with custody and control of the dog.

3. Section 6-23. Disposition of unclaimed dogs shall be revised to read as follows.

(a) After any dog that is not positively identifiable has been impounded in the animal shelter for ten days and is unclaimed by its owner, the pound employees may dispose of such dog by a humane form of destruction. However, any dog that is not positively identifiable that has been impounded for six days may be turned over to any organization established for the purpose of caring for animals such as the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or to any person who is approved to adopt or rescue such a dog under the effective adoption/rescue policies and procedures, provided the requirements of S.C.Code Ann. 47-3-60 (2017) or any other state statute, do not require impoundment for a longer period. Complete records shall be kept by animal shelter officials as to the disposition of all animals impounded.

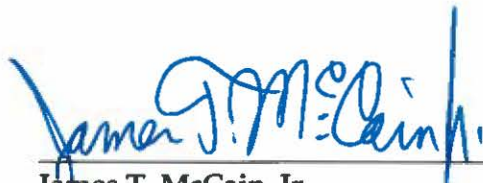
(b) This section shall be implemented and enforced by employees or volunteers under the supervision of the County Administrator.

This Ordinance is done, ratified and adopted May 14, 2019.

THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR SUMTER COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

(SEAL)

BY:

  
James T. McCain, Jr.  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
Mary W. Blanding  
Clerk of County Council

**First Reading:** March 26, 2019.

**Second Reading:** April 9, 2019.

**Public Hearing:** April 23, 2019.

**Third Reading and Adoption:** May 14, 2019.